

# PUBLIC BENEFIT RATING SYSTEM



The goal of a successful PBRs should be to facilitate the maintenance, preservation, and conservation of community open space resources.

## SUMMARY

- BOCC priority for 2022
- Expand the Rural Forest Lands/Woodlots priority resource
- Address those being impacted by water runoff/drainage
- Incentivize the creation of larger ecosystems
- Findings of Fact





## WA STATE INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Integrated Forest Management
  - Timber Management Plan
  - Forest Stewardship Program
  - High Priority Resource – Five Points





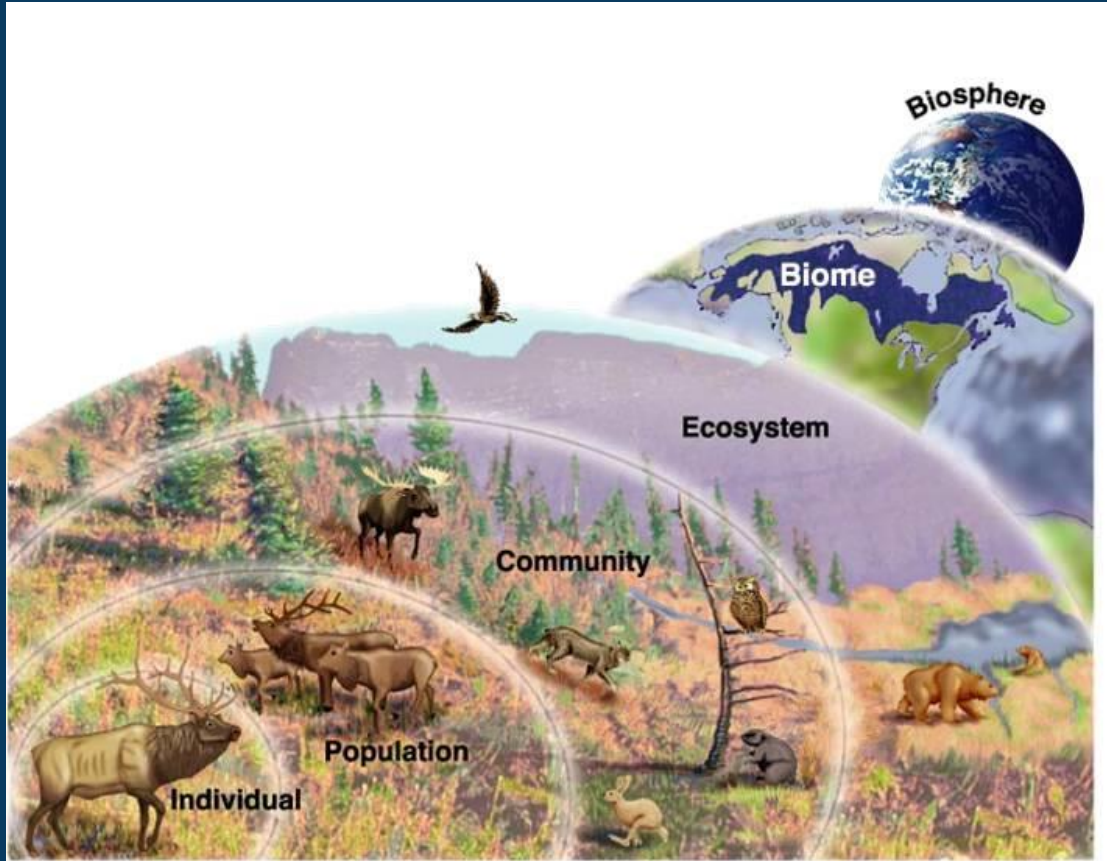


## DRAINAGE AREA

- Provides an additional option for those enrolled in PBRS who may be impacted by excessive stormwater
- Requires an approved Drainage Plan
- Bonus System – Five Points



## ADJACENT PROPERTIES



- Encourage the protection of larger, better-connected open spaces
  - Significant Fragmentation – Zero points
  - Slight Fragmentation – Three points
  - No fragmentation – Five points

# FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Island County Planning and Community Development have proposed a Docket and Work Plan for 2022 to the Board of Island County Commissioners.
2. Pursuant to this plan, the planning staff seeks to amend 3.40 ICC regarding Island County's Public Benefit Rating System.
3. The Planning Commission finds that the proposed amendments are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 36.70A RCW which requires that development regulations be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan.
4. The Planning Commission finds that the proposed amendments are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 84.34 RCW which provides the county the authority to establish open space priority and adopt an open space plan and public benefit rating system.
5. **The Planning Commission finds that by replacing the Rural Forest Lands/Woodlots category with the Washington State Integrated Forest Management Plan, small forest landowners in Island County can choose a program that more adequately represents their choice of forest management practices and values.**

# FINDINGS OF FACT

6. The Planning Commission finds that the Integrated Forest Management Plan (Forest Stewardship Plan and Timber Management Plan) shall be designated a High Priority Resource and be allocated five (5) points.
7. **The Planning Commission finds that by permitting landowners to designate portions of their land as a Drainage Area, Island County is continuing to maintain, preserve, and conserve open space by minimizing nonpoint source pollution and retaining features that contribute to the function of local habitats.**
8. The Planning Commission finds that the Drainage Area shall be designated Bonus System and be allocated five (5) points.
9. **The Planning Commission finds that by permitting landowners to designate their land as Properties Adjacent to a Public or Current Use Classified Land, that Island County can facilitate the conservation of wildlife habitats and mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation.**
10. The Planning Commission finds that the Properties Adjacent to a Public or Current Use Classified Land shall be designated Bonus System and be allocated five (5) points.



# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 11. The Planning Commission finds that it is in the best interest of the County to carry out the surface water quality monitoring program and wetland monitoring program with landowners who are enrolled in the PBRs.**
12. The Planning Commission finds that landowners receiving points from a category that acknowledges the presence of surface waters or wetlands shall allow Island County staff to access sites one (1) time per year, upon written notice, to monitor surface water quality and wetland quality.
13. The Planning Commission finds that the monitoring of surface water quality and wetland quality shall be done in accordance with ICC 17.02B.520 and ICC 17.02B.530.
14. A SEPA Determination of Non-significance was issued using the optional process established by WAC 197-11-355.
15. The project was publicly noticed with a comment period held from August 31, 2022, through September 14, 2022. Residents currently enrolled in Island County's PBRs were notified of the proposed project on August 30, 2022, so that all comments could be heard and added to the record. Three comments were received.